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OTTAWA • THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2008

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Free massage leads to assault

CHARGES Police have charged an Ottawa man after he allegedly sexually assaulted a male client who was offered a free massage.

In mid-November, a man in his 20s answered an on-line ad for a free massage session at a place of business, said Ottawa police Staff Sgt. John McGetrick with the sexual assault/child abuse unit.

The victim said he was touched inappropriately during the massage.

After an investigation, police arrested and charged a man Tuesday.

"We have reason to believe he sent out messages advertising free massages," McGetrick said. "There may be other people who responded and had similar experiences."

"The potential may exist for more victims. This could be the only one, but a large number of people may have responded."

Elias Elhitti, 38, was released on conditions. He will appear in court at a later date.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Sexual Assault/Child Abuse Unit at 613-236-1222 ext. 5944 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Food pg 28

A TASTE of CANADA
A CULINARY JOURNEY
ROSE MURRAY



Smorgasbord of cookbooks

Gift Guide pgs 17-26

More great ideas for everyone on your nice list



An electronics store employee watches Prime Minister Stephen Harper deliver a national televised address in Calgary last night. Harper pledged to use legal means to save his Conservative government.

PM hits small screen

Pledges to use 'every legal means' to protect government

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will meet with Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean this morning to try to block a handover of power to a coalition of opposition parties he says threatens Canada's economic stability.

In his first televised address to the nation as prime minister, a determined Harper took to the airwaves last night to argue the NDP-Liberal coalition poised to defeat his Conservatives would damage the country's unity, economy and democracy.

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion fought back with his own pitch to Canadians, saying the Conservatives "have lost the right to govern."

Harper is acting on the belief the Governor General cannot refuse a request to prematurely end Parliament through prorogation

"What Mr. Harper has done here is he's set the House of Commons on fire. He is reaping exactly what he sowed."

Liberal MP David McGuinty

in advance of a non-confidence vote, senior Conservative government members said. As well, both other options — of "dissolving" Parliament to call another election, or of turning power over to a Liberal-led coalition — are believed to be options she is less likely to choose less than two months after the last federal election.

Jean's choice was not made any easier by comments from former governor general Ed Schreyer, who said yesterday the will of Parliament must not be avoided.

During the 4½ speech, the prime minister offered no olive branch to his critics,

but for stating he hoped they would bring forward budgetary advice to him.

Faced with a united opposition that accuses him of doing nothing on the economy, Harper listed economic measures his government has announced so far, including tax cuts and infrastructure spending and promised more spending in a Jan. 27 budget "to boost Canada's economy."

Harper said the parliamentary crisis is "a pivotal moment in our history" and vowed to use "every legal means to protect our democracy, to protect our economy and to protect Canada."

NDP Leader Jack Layton

said last night Canada is at "a crossroads in our collective history" with a coalition government ready to replace a Conservative government he said has done little to help ordinary Canadians during the toughest economic times in a generation.

Harper's national address was unlikely to change the minds of many of his political opponents.

"I don't trust him. I don't have confidence in him," said Liberal MP David McGuinty. "What Mr. Harper has done here is he's set the House of Commons on fire. He is reaping exactly what he sowed."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE
SEE MORE COVERAGE PGS. 6, 9

VIDEO Watch Prime Minister Harper's address to the nation at metronews.ca/canada

Tories have done 'exact same thing:' Duceppe

COALITION The Bloc Québécois fired back at the Conservatives for ramping up the national-unity rhetoric by revealing the two merged parties that make up the current government also tried to form a coalition with the separatist party.

Bloc Leader Gilles Duceppe said on the day of the

Gilles Duceppe 2000 election, he received a letter from well-known Calgary lawyer Gerry Chipeur proposing his party support a coalition of the now merged Canadian Alliance and Progressive Conservative parties.

The document was circulated to media watching question period from the press gallery yesterday as Stockwell Day, now trade minister in Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government, said he had only learned of the document the

Stockwell Day night before. The Bloc then circulated a Globe and Mail article from July 29, 2000, which had Day refusing to rule out a coalition with the Bloc.

"The Canadian Alliance position is to be open to anybody who is interested in a truly conservative form of government," the article quotes Day as saying in North Hatley, Que., when asked about the possibility.

Duceppe said the document shows the Conservatives have done the "exact same thing" they are now decrying. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**



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Almost 300,000 lights expected to shine on Parliament Hill

Thousands of people are expected to gather on Parliament Hill this evening for the launch of the Christmas Lights Across Canada program. Close to 300,000 lights — which will illuminate Parliament Hill and other prominent landmarks along Confederation Boulevard — will officially switch on at 6:25 p.m. **METRO OTTAWA**

Ottawa

OC Transpo food drive

Santa and the Ottawa Food Bank get a helping hand tomorrow when Mayor Larry O'Brien, left, and city employees launch the 24th annual OC Transpo Food Drive at city hall. While the city delivers the first load of food donations on the HO-HO-HOC Transpo bus at 2:30 p.m., the food drive will be held at Loblaws, Real Canadian Superstores and Your Independent Grocers from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. **METRO OTTAWA**

Transit strike looming

Negotiations between city, union going down to the wire

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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City buses could stop rolling one minute after midnight next Wednesday.

Members of the union representing bus drivers, mechanics and dispatchers held a strike vote yesterday.

Results of the vote were expected back close to midnight yesterday, but Amalgamated Transit Union local 279 president Andre Cornellier predicted the union would overwhelmingly support a strike mandate following the morning meeting at the Ottawa Civic Centre yesterday, which he said was "very positive."

"On Dec. 10 at 12:01 a.m., this place is going to be shut down, if we don't have a deal," he said.

The union will meet with the city again on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday to work out a deal before the



After a "very positive" meeting yesterday morning at the Ottawa Civic Centre, Amalgamated Transit Union Local 279 president Andre Cornellier predicted members would overwhelmingly vote in favour of a strike that could begin on Dec. 10.

deadline.

Compensation is a factor, but Cornellier insists it is not the only sticking point.

"Everyone wants money to be an issue, because of what the economy is like and because of what city council has done," he said.

"We've said from the beginning sick benefits and contracting out are two strike issues, and they haven't moved on that for us."

OC Transpo employees receive six sick days per year, but Cornellier would not say how many they are ask-

ing for.

"We are not front-line workers per se, but we are, because we are out there every day. We want things like equal sick days," said operator Kim Rose, who drives the 283 to Richmond. "We have less than anyone in the city, yet we are in contact with thousands of people per day."

Mayor Larry O'Brien has called a special city council meeting for 9 a.m. today to brief councillors on the state of negotiations.

Transit chairman Alex Cullen said it was not unusual for a union to ask for a strike mandate.

"We have a good offer on the table and we expect to settle this at the table," he said. "This is part of the collective bargaining process, and I'm looking forward to a settlement. We've been very successful at achieving settlements that benefit both sides for many years."

Man faces charges for office disturbance

TRACEY TONG
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A 35-year-old Ottawa man who allegedly stormed into a downtown office building and frightened workers by shouting and reciting from the Qur'an appeared in court yesterday after being charged by police.

On Tuesday night, police charged a suspect with several criminal charges, including three counts of resist arrest, two counts of mischief, one count of cause disturbance and one unrelated count of uttering threats to damage property, said Ottawa Police Const. Al Boucher.

Mustafa Abuhanah appeared in show cause court yesterday morning.

At 8:56 a.m. on Tuesday, man wearing a trench coat walked into the Vinci Park office on the 13th floor of the National Building at 130 Slater St. and began walking up and down the halls, shouting and reading from the Qur'an.

The man was "was stumbling around a bit" and "holding a Qur'an up over his eye," Vinci Park general manager Brent Robinson, told Metro Ottawa earlier.

Police said the suspect was holding a Qur'an in one hand and had the other in his trench coat pocket. He was reciting verses from the Qur'an in Arabic and asking for the Libyan embassy.

Police took the man away in handcuffs and leg shackles.

Armed-robbery suspect sought

CRIME Police are seeking an armed robbery suspect after the Mac's Milk at 598 Montreal Rd. was robbed Tuesday night.

Police said yesterday that a white male, about 25 years old, entered the store with a long-barrelled handgun at approximately 8:25 p.m.

He stole a small quantity of cash and was last seen heading westbound on Montreal Road.

There were no injuries.

The man's face was covered and he was wearing a blue winter jacket with two white stripes along both sleeves and a white symbol on the upper left sleeve near the shoulder.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Postponing housing funding costly: Wright

TIM WIECLAWSKI
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FUNDING The deferral of funds intended to support affordable housing and homelessness will end up costing the city more in the long run, said the vice-chair of the Alliance to End Homelessness.

Before addressing city council yesterday, Marion Wright said the fallout from the \$3.25 million proposed deferral would end up cost-

ing the city \$3.3 million or more.

"Investing in housing infrastructure is a very responsible thing to do. Not only will it get people housed, but for every dollar put in, it returns two dollars back," said Wright.

Coun. Diane Holmes supported the statement, saying it is far more costly to have police, paramedics and other social services care for a

person living on the street, than to have that person living in a social-housing unit.

The \$3.25 million is comprised of \$1.75 million for tenant support to keep people in their houses; \$1 million to convert 100 subsidized housing units into supported housing for people with mental illness and addictions; and \$500,000 targeted for 107 agencies in Ottawa that provide health,

social services and recreation activities for the homeless or those at risk of being homeless.

Alta Vista Coun. Peter Hume, who is also the chair of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, said difficulties with funding housing is played out in every city across the province.

"It is shameful that in a country as prosperous as Canada, we have no national housing strategy," he said.



Marion Wright

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Another day of political punchups in Ottawa at metronews.ca/canada

Video Canada's Sea King is the Energizer Bunny of naval aviation at metronews.ca/canada

Video Can cellphones actually pop popcorn? metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 2, 8, 12, 22, 36 & 37. Bonus 23.

Ontario 49: 2, 7, 20, 28, 36 & 40. Bonus 44.

Ontario Pick 3: 9 9 7; Ontario Pick 4: 7 4 1 6

Encore: 2901364

Daily Keno: 3, 6, 12, 18, 19, 25, 28, 32, 33, 36,

39, 40, 42, 48, 51, 58, 60, 67, 68, 70.

These results are not official.

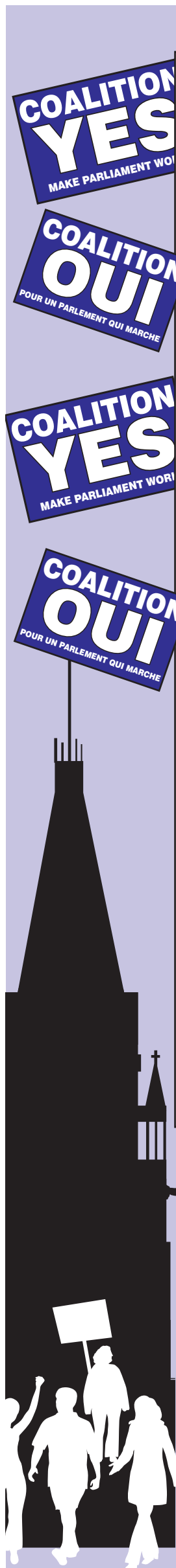
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COALITION OUI
POUR UN PARLEMENT QUI MARCHE

COALITION YES
MAKE PARLIAMENT WORK

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POUR UN PARLEMENT QUI MARCHE

Around the world, governments are taking action to deal with what has become a global economic crisis. Political leaders everywhere are rising to the challenge to protect the jobs, savings, homes and livelihoods of their citizens. Everywhere except Canada – until now.

The Liberal-NDP Coalition has a plan to kick-start our economy. Their plan has the support of the majority of the Members of Parliament we just elected. It's the right plan for the country. In fact, it's the only plan we have.

Stephen Harper has no plan to put the economy first. He's more interested in power games and politics. He's lost the support he needs in Parliament to carry on as Prime Minister and now he wants to shut it down and take us into another election.

He's wrong. We don't need another election. We need the Parliament we just elected to get down to work.


The majority of MPs are ready to work together with a solid plan for our economy. The only thing standing in their way is Stephen Harper. The longer he clings to power, the longer he puts our country's economy at risk. He's putting our jobs, our pensions and our future at risk.

The Governor General needs to call on the Coalition to form a government so the country can move forward. We can't afford to wait for Stephen Harper any longer.

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Level housing market 'good news' for city

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca



"In relation to the rest of the country, we're looking pretty good."

Geoff McGowan

If you're in the market to buy or sell a house in Ottawa, you're in luck.

In the face of recession, Ottawa's housing market is faring better than ones in the rest of North America, a real-estate expert here said yesterday.

Released yesterday, the 2009 RE/MAX Housing Market Outlook stated that Ottawa's housing prices are level compared to other major markets in the country, including Toronto, Montreal, Edmonton and Calgary.

And this means "a good news scenario" for Ottawa, said Geoff McGowan, a broker and owner with RE/MAX Affiliations Realty Limited in Ottawa.

"I think we're going to be the poster child for real

estate in North America," said McGowan.

"Ottawa enjoys a stability of employment and an affordability of housing that is unique in the North American marketplace," he said.

The report examined residential real-estate trends in 22 markets across the country and found that average price held up well in 2008, despite 13 centres reporting double-digit declines in home sales.

In Ottawa, the average housing price remains stable at \$292,000 to 2009 from 2008.

"If you look at what's happening on a global basis, nothing has really changed in the economy of

Ottawa," said McGowan.

"Employment has not been affected and interest rates are lower. We're one of the few markets not to experience a decline in prices. In relation to the rest of the country, we're looking pretty good."

McGowan said the only reason for a slowdown is consumer confidence.

Like the rest of the country, "there's a slight edge for buyers," but sellers here won't suffer as much as ones in other major markets, where prices are already slipping.

"People looking to sell should look at a longer market time and fewer competitive offer situations," he said.

uOttawa Sounds of the season



Dabina Hargrove, from left, Ryan Surujballi, both University of Ottawa students, and Carleton University student Brett Ruskin, enjoy some hot chocolate, cookies and choral music outside Tabaret Hall last night during uOttawa's annual Holiday Lights illumination ceremony.

News in brief

COMMUNITY Ottawa police are asking that all Block Parent window signs be returned by Jan. 31 after supporting an Ontario Block Parent decision to close the program in Ottawa. Since 2001, local support and leadership initiatives for the community-driven program have declined. Attempts to renew the program, which has been in Ottawa for more than 20 years, have been unsuccessful. In October, Ontario Block Parent sent a letter to all registered volunteers in Ottawa, in-

dicating that the program was closed. Signs can be returned in person to a police station, mailed, or pickup can be arranged by calling 613-236-1222, ext. 6417.

ROADS The City of Gatineau said it can't afford to change all its speed-limit signs when it lowers its urban speed limit — so it may remove the signs without replacing them, CBC News Online reports. The city had been looking at reducing the limit from a maximum

of 50 kilometres per hour to 40 km/h for more than a year. But since the estimated cost of changing all the speed limit signs is about \$500,000, Gatineau Coun. Luc Angers proposed the city simply remove them. Signs would remain in a few places around the city where the limit stays at 50 km/h. The city would also put signs around city limits informing drivers that the speed limit is 40 km/h on local streets.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



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(1) Some conditions apply. Taxes, long distance, additional airtime, roaming, and pay-per-use charges are extra. Rates are subject to change without notice.

Immigration officials yesterday told Dean Walcott, former U.S. marine and Iraq war resister, that he has until Jan. 6 to leave Canada or be deported. Robin Long, a war resister deported on June 3, was court-martialled and received two felony convictions. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Canada



Record-setting month

Canada's two major airlines said yesterday their planes had bigger passenger loads last month, despite economic turmoil. Both Air Canada and rival WestJet Airlines Ltd. said their November load factors, a measure of space on their planes filled by paying passengers, rose to a record for the month. But the two carriers improved for different reasons, with Air Canada benefiting from cutbacks while WestJet's traffic strengthened. **REUTERS**

News in brief

AIDS The Canadian AIDS Treatment Information Exchange launched its Get the Facts Campaign yesterday. The campaign aims to empower people living with HIV to make well-informed treatment decisions

and improve their health. At the launch celebration, CATIE presented the first three posters and postcards in what will be a series of plain-language materials that encourage discussion about starting and ad-

hering to HIV treatment and other topics. The posters and postcards will be available free to community organizations across Canada through the CATIE Ordering Centre at www.catie.ca.

ALBERTA RCMP has made an arrest related to the murder of 14-year-old Emily Stauffer in Edson, taking an Edson man into custody yesterday, though charges were not immediately sworn. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Focus on economy, not partisanship, Dion tells nation

Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion told Canadians that Stephen Harper has lost the confidence of the House of Commons and urged the Governor General to reject any request by the prime minister to temporarily suspend Parliament.

Responding to Harper's nationally televised speech last night, Dion said he is asking Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean to ensure that the Conservative minority government faces a vote of confidence before any move to temporarily close down the House of Commons.

"In our Canada, the government is accountable for its decisions and actions in Parliament," Dion said.

Harper, whose minority government faces defeat on its economic policies as ear-

ly as Monday, may ask Jean today to close down Parliament until January, when the Conservatives plan to bring in a budget.

Dion devoted much of his talk to explaining the aims of the Liberal-New Democ-

rat coalition that, with the support of the Bloc Québécois, plans to oust Harper and govern.

"Canadians don't want another election, they want Parliamentarians to work together. That's our job ... put aside partisanship and focus on the economy."

In a separate news conference, NDP leader Jack Layton said that the Liberal-NDP coalition is an answer to the government's lack of action on the economy.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Stéphane Dion

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Edmonton Rally-ready students



Students from the University of Alberta Conservative Association display signs they've made for an anti-coalition-government rally tomorrow outside the constituency office of NDP MP Linda Duncan, Alberta's lone non-Conservative MP.

RCMP ask for help in pipeline bombing

B.C. It is still not known if a single person or a group of people is behind three October bombings of natural-gas facilities in Western Canada, police said yesterday.

"It could be one person acting alone. It could be somebody acting within a small group," Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt.

Tim Shields said as investigators renewed their plea for the public's help.

Police believe the saboteur, or saboteurs, lives in the same area of northeastern British Columbia where the three attacks occurred, and believe the motive is a grievance against pipeline owner EnCana Corp. **REUTERS**

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The family of a man killed in a stampede of frenzied holiday shoppers filed a wrongful-death lawsuit against Wal-Mart Stores Inc. yesterday, seeking unspecified damages. Shoppers on New York's Long Island broke down doors and surged into the Valley Stream Wal-Mart at 5 a.m. last Friday. **REUTERS**

World



FCC looks at free Internet decision

U.S. communications regulators will consider a controversial spectrum auction plan for free Internet and new rules governing disputes between cable operators and programmers at their December meeting, the agency's chairman said yesterday. Federal Communications Commission chairman Kevin Martin is proposing that the agency auction off some airwaves, with a mandate that 25 per cent be set aside for free Internet. **REUTERS**

Pakistan urged to co-operate

American leaders try to diffuse tension after deadly Mumbai attacks

The chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff urged Pakistan yesterday to investigate all possible links between the Mumbai attacks and Pakistani groups and to broaden its campaign against militants.

Admiral Mike Mullen flew in for talks with Pakistan's eight-month-old civilian government and military commanders, as part of U.S. diplomatic efforts to defuse tension be-

tween Pakistan and India after the Mumbai attacks.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was in New Delhi to consult the Indian government.

Mullen urged Pakistani officials to "investigate aggressively any and all possible ties to groups based in Pakistan", the U.S. embassy said in a statement.

Mullen noted the recent success of Pakistani offensives against militants on the Afghan border and "al-

FBI gathering evidence in India

Attorney General Michael Mukasey said yesterday that FBI agents are working with Indian police to provide assis-

tance and gather evidence about the attacks by militants in India's financial hub of Mumbai that killed 171 people.

so encouraged Pakistani leaders to take more, and more concerted, action against militant extremists elsewhere in the country".

Rice urged Pakistan to cooperate "fully and transparently" in the investiga-

tion. She is due in Islamabad on Thursday, the prime minister's office said.

Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said the attacks on Mumbai that killed 171 people, includ-

ing Americans and other foreigners, were led from inside Pakistan, and said India would act decisively to protect its territorial integrity.

Meanwhile, Pakistan killed up to 30 Islamist militants in an air strike and three soldiers and a civilian were killed in a suicide attack in the northwest near the Afghan border yesterday, officials said.

REUTERS

90 countries sign cluster bomb treaty

PACT More than 90 nations signed a treaty yesterday to ban cluster bombs that have killed and maimed thousands of people, though powerful arms producers including the United States, Russia and China, remain outside the pact.

Despite those and other military powers not signing, 18 of 26 NATO members, including Canada, Britain, France and Germany, signed the convention which many hailed as a humanitarian achievement.

Estimates of those killed and injured by cluster bombs over the decades range from tens of thousands to 100,000 and more, though campaigners say the real numbers will never be known.

REUTERS

Airport blockade lifted in Thailand

PROTEST Anti-government protesters lifted their crippling, eight-day blockade of Thailand's main airport yesterday, raising the hopes of 230,000 stranded tourists even though there is no end in sight to the wider political crisis.

The central bank slashed interest rates by a shocking 100 basis points to 2.75 per cent, reflecting the impact of the siege on a tourism- and export-dependent economy already feeling the effects of global slowdown.

A Thai Airways domestic flight landed earlier in the morning and several international flights were scheduled to leave soon after, although it was unclear when full operations would resume.

Still cheering Tuesday's sacking of the government by the courts, thousands of yellow-shirted People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD) activists made way for an army of cleaners at the \$4 billion US Suvarnabhumi

terminal, one of the world's biggest.

"I have strong confidence that everything will be OK and will be back to normal in two days," airport general manager Serirat Prasutanond told Reuters as PAD officials swept up debris left by their sit-in, the latest stunt in a six-month campaign.

"The risk of civil unrest is growing, and with it the accompanying risk of military intervention."

Kristina Azmi

Dissolution of the ruling People Power Party (PPP) will heal none of the basic rifts between Bangkok's royalist elite and middle

classes, who despise ousted and exiled leader Thaksin Shinawatra, and the urban poor and rural masses who love him and continue to vote his allies into office.

"Thailand remains locked in this structurally flawed system for the foreseeable future," said IHS Global Insight analyst Kristina Azmi. "The risk of civil unrest is growing and with it the accompanying risk of military intervention." **REUTERS**

Congo European peacekeeping mission on hold



A child plays in a puddle in a camp for displaced people yesterday near the town of Mugunga, Democratic Republic of Congo. Belgium said yesterday it saw no prospect of a European peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, for now.

Noise pollution a threat to sea animals: Experts

SCIENCE Man-made noise in the world's seas and oceans is becoming an increasing threat to whales, dolphins and turtles who use sound to communicate, forage for food and find mates, wildlife experts said yesterday.

Rumbling ship engines, seismic surveys by oil and gas companies, and intrusive military sonars are triggering an "acoustic fog and cacophony of sounds" underwater, scaring marine animals and affecting their behaviour.

"There is now evidence linking loud underwater noises with some major strandings of marine mammals, especially deep diving beaked whales," said Mark Simmonds, science director of the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society.

According to Ocean Noise: Turn It Down, a new report by the International Fund for Animal Welfare, the distance over which blue whales can communicate has been cut by 90 per cent as a result of higher noise levels. **REUTERS**



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Andrew Cohen

Canada & world insight

The Conservatives built their recent re-election campaign around leadership. They put Stephen Harper front and centre in their effort to persuade Canadians that only he could lead them through the coming economic storm.

The problem for Harper was the popular distrust that has followed him around like a cranky footnote. While few doubted Harper's intelligence and discipline, they never found him very likeable.

It was famously said that Franklin D. Roosevelt had a second-class intellect and a first-class temperament. It wasn't really true — FDR was also bright — but the reverse can surely be said

of Stephen Harper. He has a first-class intellect and a second-class temperament.

Politics is all about marketing, and the selling of Stephen Harper has always been hard.

That he is cold and distant, that he is humourless and wooden, we knew. But politicians of that ilk, such as Richard Nixon, can get elected if they can persuade us of their competence.

This Harper had done in 2½ years in office.

But to win a majority, to close the deal with Canadians, he had to make them more comfortable with him — to like him.

And so the smart Tory strategists

dressed him in sweaters.

They had him play the piano and play with children — all to make this wallflower look fragrant.

It failed. Canadians denied Harper his majority, again. In Quebec, where he had hoped to find extra seats, all it took was a disparaging comment about culture and artists that was so silly he refused to repeat it in French.

The mask fell. Suddenly, there he was, his contempt laid bare.

It re-inforced a sense of meanness, and it cost him.

When Parliament reconvened, he talked conciliation.

Stephen Harper



Facing another minority, he seemed to want to make the institution work.

So what did he do?

He cancelled public financing of political parties, bankrupting his opponents.

And he suspended the right to strike of public servants.

He thought he could get away with both while the Liberals were leaderless.

He is an unreconstructed bully, and presented with a chance to land a blow upon a bruise, he can't resist.

We have never had a prime minister in memory quite like him. John Diefenbaker, Pierre Trudeau, Brian Mulroney and Jean Chrétien could brawl but had charm. Louis St. Laurent, Lester Pearson and Joe Clark were gentle souls.

Stephen Harper is something else. And that's why he and his government are in trouble today.

Andrew Cohen, a professor and journalist, is the author of *Extraordinary Canadians*: Lester B. Pearson.

STEPHEN HARPER GOES INTO "CAMPAIGN MODE" TO SAVE HIS JOB:



MICHAEL DE ADLER

Letters

What's so abnormal about just wanting to date?

Re: Blame the Boomers by Denise Rudnicki, Dec. 3.

Based on a couple of examples, you conclude that young people today are not marrying simply because they are selfish, materialistic and egomaniacal. That's quite a broad brush with which you're painting.

Marriage is not necessarily a sign of maturity. Anyone can get married, but some people aren't emotionally prepared or simply inclined to make such a profound commitment. So what if people are happy "just" dating? It's attitudes like yours that makes society view unmarried people as abnormalities.

MELISSA HENRY
TORONTO

Marriage not something to be entered into lightly

Re: Blame the Boomers by Denise Rudnicki, Dec. 3. "My generation is to blame for this laissez-faire attitude to love and commitment," Rudnicki writes.

She is too busy blaming her generation and offering herself as a martyr to understand that this is not a laissez-faire attitude.

We have learned by watching the baby boomers that marriage is a lifetime commitment that should not be taken up in our youth.

You want to know why my generation isn't marrying like the boomers once did?

It is because we learned from their example that marriage is not an institution to enter into lightly.

COURTNEY MCPHAIL
TORONTO

Politics interesting again

I am so pleased about this whole episode of coalition government and it has generated so much interest across the country.

We have never seen anything like this. We are 30 million-plus and we have 30 million-plus opinions from taxi drivers, bus drivers, bartenders, barbers and students. You name it, we have one.

We have always known that Canadian politics is boring and participation level is always low. Well done politicians, you folks finally did it. You woke us all up; it makes politics very exciting. I am pleased,

ANANT NAGPUR
OTTAWA

Views

Men, not poverty, affect crime rate



Neil Boyd

As Canada slips and slides toward higher rates of unemployment, many are asking whether this will increase crime.

The simple answer is that unemployment and crime rates are not systematically related. It's not that poverty is unrelated to crime, but it's just not possible to find any statistical relationship between changing rates of unemployment and changing rates of crime over the past 50 years.

If, on the other hand, you start looking at our jail

populations, you begin to see familiar portraits: Most are male, working class or poorer, with little education and few social skills. Consider, for example, homicide in Canada.

For the past 50 years, British Columbia has had a rate of killing that is five times that of Newfoundland — a province that for decades languished under double-digit unemployment. What drives homicide rates (and most other crime rates) is not unemployment, or even poverty, but two more important variables: Culture and demographic shifts.

The culture of British Columbia is quite different from that of Newfoundland — the West has less community, a more tran-

Meaningful change depends on ... the communities we create.

sient population, and an established network of young men who use handguns as their tool of last resort in business transactions. Second, more than 70 per cent of all crime, in every country in the world, is committed by young men between the ages of 15 and 29. If the percentage of the male population between these ages either increases or shrinks, crime rates will rise and fall accordingly. When crime in Canada began to rise in the late 1960s, it was because of the surge of the baby

boomers.

In 1976, young men between 18 and 29 made up 10 per cent of the Canadian population; today, they represent less than five per cent. When crime rates began to fall in the early 1990s it was no surprise; the tail end of the surge of the baby boomers, those born in 1964, left their crime prone years in 1993.

In other words, tough economic times are not going to drive our crime rates down, or through the roof. Meaningful change depends on our culture and the communities we create — and, unfortunately, on the prevalence of young men in our populations.

Neil Boyd is a criminologist at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: ottawalatters@metronews.ca

Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number — street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

High earners cut spending amid downturn: Amex
The current financial downturn is hurting the spending of people in high income levels, the CEO of American Express said. Discretionary spending has dropped substantially and tough business conditions are expected to continue through next year. **REUTERS**

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Weak U.S. economy catches up to Research in Motion

STOCKS The weak U.S. economy has finally caught up with Research In Motion, forcing the maker of the BlackBerry smartphone to cut its quarterly profit estimate as sales slow, margins narrow and a stronger U.S. dollar squeezes revenue.

RIM's already battered shares closed two per cent to \$45 a share in Toronto after the company warned late Tuesday that it made

less money and sold about 10 per cent fewer BlackBerry than it had expected during the quarter that ended Nov. 29, based on preliminary figures.

Investors and analysts have long worried that an economic slowdown could prompt corporate customers to delay upgrading their BlackBerry models in a bid to clamp down on costs. **REUTERS**

Housing market could rebound in spring

Canada's real-estate market is expected to be "somewhat static" for at least the next six months as the economic downturn makes potential buyers extra cautious, while the average house price is expected to fall, according to a report yesterday.

The Re/Max Housing Market Outlook, which tracks 22 markets across the country, says it expects 440,000 homes to change hands in 2008, down 15 per cent from 2007. It predicted the

"The landscape is definitely changing — with most markets shifting in to either balanced or buyer's territory."
Elton Ash

same number of sales for next year, but the first six to nine months of 2009 will be under pressure from volatility in financial markets and

the threat of recession.

Housing markets should recover as stability returns to the financial sector, the Re/Max report said. If consumer confidence is restored and overall economic activity picks up, so should the housing market and a bounce-back could occur "as early as spring," the report said.

A buyer's market has emerged in the latter half of 2008 after a strong start to the year. Housing values are expected to slip three per

cent to an average \$300,000 from last year's record peak. By year-end 2009, unit sales should match 2008 levels, while the average price is forecast to fall another two per cent to \$293,000.

"The landscape is definitely changing — with most markets shifting into either balanced or buyer's territory. The shutout is over," said Elton Ash, regional executive vice-president of Re/Max Western Canada. **REUTERS**



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G8 Financial leaders meet



Thomas J. Donohue, from left, of the United States Chamber of Commerce, and France's MEDEF head Laurence Parisot listen to Fujio Mitarai of the Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren) as they attend a news conference during the G8 business leaders meeting in Paris yesterday.

Markets fall on news of job cuts

MARKETS Grim news that the U.S. retail sector fell to a record low and that employers shed 250,000 jobs sparked fear of an economic "free fall" in U.S. and European markets, setting up another round of aggressive interest-rate cuts in the U.S. and globally. **REUTERS**

In brief

TSX The S&P/TSX composite index closed down 30.85 points, or 0.37 per cent, at 8,296.96 as talk about a hostile takeover bid for Nexen Inc. fizzled out.

RATES New Zealand's central bank slashed interest rates by a record 150 basis points because of financial market turmoil. **REUTERS**

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the **Bay**

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The NFL will broadcast tonight's Raiders/Chargers game in 3D to theatres in New York, Boston and Los Angeles. Eight 3D camera crews will film the action for the test broadcast, which will have its own commentators. Viewers must don polarized lenses to see the action. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports



Avery faces the music today

The Stars' Sean Avery will meet with NHL commissioner Gary Bettman today in New York to explain himself in the wake of controversial comments made Tuesday that resulted in his indefinite suspension. Avery's comments regarding actress Eliza Cuthbert ignited a storm of criticism from both teammates and opponents. Avery apologized for his remarks yesterday, saying "it was a bad attempt to build excitement for the game."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Mitchell out, Triano in

NBA The Toronto Raptors fired head coach Sam Mitchell yesterday, a day after the team suffered the fifth-worst defeat in franchise history.

Canadian assistant Jay Triano, formerly in charge of Canada's national team,



was appointed interim coach and, according to Raptors President Bryan Colangelo, is expected to remain in the role through the end of the season. "It's safe to say after the debacle we all witnessed last night, (a 39-point loss to Denver), not to mention several other instances ... you come to a point where you realise some of the things you want to see out there aren't taking place," Colangelo told reporters.

In four-plus seasons in Toronto, Mitchell posted a record of 156-189, earning NBA coach of the year in 2006-07 after guiding the Raptors to the Atlantic Division title and back into the playoffs for the first time in five years.

"It's not about being shocked or not shocked," Mitchell told TSN's Off The Record. "It's unfortunate that it happened, but these things do happen."

REUTERS

Sports in brief

BASEBALL According to the New York Daily News, the Atlanta Braves are preparing a five-year offer to free-agent pitcher A.J. Burnett. Atlanta also reached a tentative deal Tuesday to acquire pitcher Javier Vazquez from the White Sox.

NHL The Flyers' Daniel Briere will miss the next four to five weeks with a groin strain.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Three in a row at home

NHL RESULT

Sens 5 Thrashers 1



MIKE BEASLEY
for Metro Ottawa

THE SKINNY: The Ottawa Senators played like the team they can be as they cruised to a win over the Atlanta Thrashers for their third consecutive home victory.

THE BIG THREE: Ottawa's big line of Dany Heatley, Jason Spezza and Daniel Alfredsson scored first-period goals and was jump-



Jason Spezza scores on Ondrej Pavelec last night.

ing all night as they combined for a total of six points in the win.

THE FIRST GOAL: Brendan Bell notched his first goal in a Senators uniform and first in al-

most two years since he was member of the Toronto Maple Leafs. Bell also picked up an as-

sist on Ottawa's first marker of the game.

THE LEAGUE'S WORST PP:

The Atlanta Thrashers gave up their league high 29th and 30th short-handed goals in last night's loss.

THE GREAK PK: Ottawa did a great job keeping Atlanta off the scoreboard late in the second period when the Thrashers had consecutive 5-on-3 opportunities.

THE LEAGUE LEADER: Sens blue-liner Filip Kuba leads all NHL defencemen with 17 assists after chipping in with two assists last night.

THE NEXT GAME: The Pens are in town on Saturday.

One-dimensional players not welcome

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The boys in the red and white may be a little green at this year's world junior championship in Ottawa.

Hockey Canada announced yesterday its 38-player selection camp roster for the world junior championship, a group that will gather for four days in Ottawa starting Dec. 11.

Eighteen players coming to camp are aged 18 or younger, while there are only four returnees from the group that won Canada's fourth straight gold medal last year.

"It could be a bunch of 18-year-olds that make it," head coach Pat Quinn said. "It will be about maturity. Let's face it: Some 18-year-olds are more mature than

some at 19 or 25 for that matter. If we're young, that's what we are."

The roster features four goalies, 14 defencemen and 20 forwards. Forwards John Tavares and Zach Boychuk and blueliners Thomas Hickey and P.K. Subban are the returnees.

Much-talked-about Montreal Junior forward Angelo Esposito will get a fourth crack at making the roster.

Some of the bigger names among the newcomers are Taylor Hall, an early favourite to go No. 1 in the 2010 NHL draft; Vancouver Canucks first-rounder Cody Hodgson; and St. Louis Blues fourth overall pick Alex Pietrangolo.

One-dimensional players were not welcome.

"The guys coming to camp are real good players that do something elite but they have a well-rounded game," said the team's head



Zach Boychuk, left, and P.K. Subban are two of Team Canada's returning camp attendees.

scout, Al Murray.

If Canada can win a fifth straight medal, it would match its own record of five straight titles from 1992 to 1997.

"At the end of the day on Dec. 15, we're hoping we can pick 22 men who will come together as a team," Quinn said. "It's not skill that wins in any game of

hockey. It's how those skills blend to come together stronger as a unit."

The tournament opens Boxing Day at Scotiabank Place.

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NHL	NBA	TONIGHT'S GAME
YESTERDAY'S RESULTS OTTAWA 5 Atlanta 1 N.Y. Rangers 3 Pittsburgh 2 (SO) St. Louis at Minnesota Anaheim at Chicago Dallas at Edmonton TONIGHT'S GAMES N.Y. Rangers at Montreal New Jersey at Philadelphia N.Y. Islanders at Washington Pittsburgh at Carolina Boston at Tampa Bay Buffalo at Florida Vancouver at Detroit Colorado at Nashville Toronto at Phoenix Columbus at San Jose	YESTERDAY'S RESULTS Atlanta 105 Memphis 95 Boston 114 Indiana 96 Charlotte 103 Oklahoma City 97 Cleveland 118 New York 82 L.A. Lakers 114 Philadelphia 102 Orlando 100 Minnesota 89 Portland 98 Washington 92 Chicago at Milwaukee Phoenix at New Orleans L.A. Clippers at Houston Miami at Utah TONIGHT'S GAMES Phoenix at Dallas San Antonio at Denver	SUNDAY'S GAMES Minnesota at Detroit Cleveland at Tennessee Houston at Green Bay Atlanta at New Orleans Jacksonville at Chicago Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants Cincinnati at Indianapolis New England at Seattle N.Y. Jets at San Francisco Kansas City at Denver Dallas at Pittsburgh St. Louis at Arizona Washington at Baltimore Miami vs. Buffalo (at Toronto) MONDAY'S GAME Tampa Bay at Carolina

NFL

Sens need to stick to guns

The **Hockey** News

Ken Campbell

thehockeynews.com

A winning streak would be nice, but what the Ottawa Senators need right now more than anything else is a little bit of decisiveness.

And it looks as though they're finally getting it from coach **Craig Hartsburg**.

Whether he has the courage to stick to his convictions will likely go a long way toward determining whether the Senators will make the playoffs this season or become contenders for the **John Tavares/Victor Hedman** sweepstakes.

After trying as hard as he could to fit a star-shaped peg into a square hole, Hartsburg finally broke down and reunited the top line of **Jason Spezza** between **Dany Heatley** and **Daniel Alfredsson**. Now it's up to Hartsburg to run with his three studs no matter what.

The first quarter of the season has proved beyond a reasonable doubt that guys such as **Antoine Vermette**, **Nick Foligno** and **Jesse Winchester** as mis-cast as top-line players, so why put them in roles where they're going to fail?

Given the chance to play together and recapture their chemistry, the Pizza Line has the potential to re-emerge as one of the most dominant forward units in the NHL.

Even that might not be enough for the Senators, but it's the only real chance they have if they want to improve their fortunes.

Hartsburg has to play the daylights out of them and hope the other three units and the special teams can at least not lose them too many games.

A lack of depth is a reality for everyone in the salary-cap world and the Senators are no exception. When three players take up a third of your cap space, they should be leaned upon to do most of the heavy lifting.

((A BERRY, BERRY CHRISTMAS.))

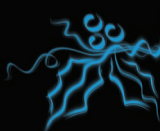


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The Hockey News
thn.com

MySpace users with mobile phones are about to find out if they can walk and watch TV at the same time. Yesterday, News Corp.'s online social network made video clips from its members' pages available for viewing on mobile devices, including the BlackBerry Bold, Palm Centro, Motorola Q9, LG Voyager, Nokia N95 and Samsung Instinct. **REUTERS**

Tech Now



Google, Life team up

Google and Life have reached a deal to post Life photo images dating back to the 1970s. In all, 10 million photos will go online with Google image search.

GOOGLE

The front line of image searches

TechNow

Paul Brent

technow@ctv.ca

It's estimated that about 15 per cent of the billions of online searches we do involves the hunt for images. If you add in searches for video, that number climbs dramatically. So it's not surprising there is a growing business in helping us find and deal with images.

Gatineau-based Blue-Bear LES Inc. is making a name for itself in the fight against child pornography victims. Its software helps

police catalogue and compare millions of images found during investigations and it does it automatically.

Company CEO Antoine Normand said its lead product, LACE (Law Enforcement against Child Exploitation) is focused on police and the fight against porn, but he sees applications anywhere authorities want facial recognition as a tool. The next step for the company is to apply the same techniques to video.

Toronto-based Idee Inc. is talking with police about its technology called TinEye. What it can do is take an original image and find out

all the places it has been posted on



the web, even if it has been altered.

The company's original area of work was with those who own the rights to images and want to know where those images are being used and are they being compensated. Leila Boujnane, CEO and co-founder of Idee, said Canadian companies can take on the world and win in this growing field. Her company now

has more than one billion images on file, which can be compared to images found online.

Another service sends e-mail alerts to a rights holder every time the image is posted online.

The newest entry in this image game is Incogna of Ottawa. Last week, it launched its image search engine, incogna.com. What sets it apart is the fact that while you enter a word to start the search, Incogna scans actual images to see if they relate to your search word.

"Today's leading search engines are great at searching text, but are at a loss when it comes to visual data," said Kris Wood-

beck, founder of Incogna, Inc. and inventor of the technology behind the search engine.

The Incogna engine effectively "sees" each image and is able to organize images at an unprecedented scale and speed. The original development work was done at uOttawa. The company was established last year.

PAUL'S WEBSITE OF THE WEEK: www.toy-testing.org — Canada's Toy Testing Council with some great ideas on what to get young ones on your Christmas list.

This Sunday, one of the stories on Tech Now will look at some of the tech gadgets for Christmas.

Be sure to watch Tech Now this Sunday as part of the CTV NEWS at 6 p.m.



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BEAUTY
at the Bay

Metro Homes

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

It's high time for a new home fixture

Stylish urinals can eliminate an ongoing domestic battle

HomeScape



Sylvia Putz

Any female who lives with men, boys or both has undoubtedly suffered through the major irritation associated with sitting on a wet toilet seat. And we know why it's wet. Yuck. There really is nothing worse.

While older men who are considerate of female members of the family may have more experience with, shall we say, accurate aim, the same cannot be said for lit-

tle boys or even older boys who are presumably still working on it.

Some may think leaving the toilet seat up is the answer. I beg to differ. I distinctly recall my mother's agitation late one night upon sitting down unexpectedly on the cold and clammy lip of the toilet. Needless to say, the seat had been left up. And I can assure you that my brothers were awakened directly from their peaceful slumber to hear her thoughts on the matter.

So, is there really no solution in this ongoing battle between male and female family members when it comes to toilet seats? You can always impose toilet rules and strictly enforce them, and this is an inex-

pensive option, to be sure.

But if you're considering renovating a bathroom, you can circumvent the problem entirely by installing a urinal. These units are primarily confined to a commercial market for now. Buying one is usually via special order, and plumbers and electricians are not yet accustomed to installing them.

But things are starting to change. I'm not the only one who can imagine the benefits. No more toilet seat battles. No more unpleasant surprises for the unwary. Less flushing of water. And it makes life easier for the person who cleans.

Not only that, a urinal in fact can be quite a style statement, sometimes exe-

cuted in a witty or humorous way, and not at all the grotty trough you might remember from visiting well-used bar toilets.

Even in its most basic form, it's a good-looking little gadget that is exclusively for the males in the family. And that's a nice change in a room that is usually a homage to the female idea of luxury and pampering.

You can order your basic white porcelain urinal as a special order item from most large hardware store in your area, from about \$300 for an American Standard or Crane unit, to up to \$3,000 for an upscale Kohler model with contemporary styling.

For some cool ideas about how far you can go, consid-

er, for example, the urinals that look like outrageously blooming flowers (see the New Flower Urinal designs by Clark Sorensen, at Clarkmade.com).

For \$4,000 to \$10,000 US, you can aim into the bowl of a yellow tulip or Easter lily. The English have a witty version of a urinal called the Spoon, designed by Phillip Watts (phillipwattsdesign.com).

But one thing is clear. Whether you're looking at a showstopper or an unobtrusive white porcelain model, a urinal at home is an idea whose time has come.



Two models of Kohler's Steward waterless urinal.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in home decor and design. She has written extensively for the TV show *Arresting Design*.

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Holiday Shopping Guide III

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE BOMBA, STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

All she wants...



#1



#2



#3



#5



#6



#4

#1

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Bratz Familiez

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#6

Plush Fifi doll

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Cool toys for boys



#1



#2



#3



#4



#5



#6

#1

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#3

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Thomas the Tank Engine Lift & Load Set, \$299 (online exclusive price).

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Xbox controllers

Visit: xbox.com
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Holiday Shopping Guide III

Gamers' delight

KAREN FALCON
for Metro Canada

GOT A GAMER on your list? I've saved you time and stress by playing a bunch of games for you (I know, tough life, huh?). This roundup of recent releases (all under \$70) covers the best across the three major consoles and includes something for every age. Throw in extra batteries for controllers and you'll be a gift-giving mastermind.

Call of Duty: World at War

Platform: PS2, PS3, Nintendo DS, Wii, Xbox 360
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+



What better gift is there than a flamethrower? None. And you can give the gift of flamethrower by giving COD: World at War.

Powered by the same technology that made the rock-solid COD4 a superstar, this instalment of the franchise focuses on the climactic European and Pacific battles of WWII. I can't lie: It's the best-looking WWII game to date. Add the one-to-four player co-op mode and the replay value just keeps going up. Online multi-player doesn't disappoint, and we could talk about the joys of anti-tank missiles, but there's no time — we're busy tak-

ing out wave after wave of bonus-mode zombies.

de Blob

Platform: Wii, iPhone
Genre: Puzzle
Rated: E: Everyone



It's a colour revolution! OK: You're a ball. A jiggly, wriggly, gummy little ball that rolls around and restores colour to a monochromatic world, one bounce and splat at a time. You see, the evil INKT Corporation has taken over and outlawed all colour from daily life. Your mission is to investigate and reanimate 10 massive worlds. You'll be thumbstickin', arm wavin', zappin' and making other assorted silly and dramatic yet satisfying gestures to control "de Blob." The more colour you restore, the more stuff you unlock and more colours become available. Watching all this happen while you sit there smearing paint over buildings and landmarks while waving your arms around like a lunatic is oddly entertaining and wickedly gratifying.

Fallout 3

Platform: PS3, Xbox 360
Genre: Action RPG
Rated: M: 17+

Two hundred years after a nuclear war ravages the Earth, in the year 2277, your character escapes out into the world in search of his missing father. This is

a vast, open-ended game with a flexible character-levelling system in which what you choose to do makes a difference. On your journey you'll meet other survivors, complete quests, specialize your character, and battle the countless enemies inhabiting the wasteland. This instalment of the Fallout series feels good, looks good, plays incredibly well, is awesomely interactive, and begs to be played pretty much until you go blind.



LEGO Batman: The Videogame

Platform: PS2, PS3, PSP, Nintendo DS, Wii, Xbox 360
Genre: Action adventure
Rated: E: 10+



It's a game you can play with your kids. Or let them play with each other. Or forget the kids and play it yourself — it's Batman and it's LEGO. Play as Batman and play as Robin. Build stuff, drive a LEGO Batmobile, swing on bat cables, and capture escaped villains like The Joker and The Penguin. Or play as the evil dudes and wage war on the good guys while spreading mayhem throughout the awesome LEGO Gotham city — whatever your age, LEGO is cool.

Left 4 Dead

Platform: Xbox 3
Genre: Horror, shooter
Rated: M: 17+



Mmmm ... zombies. Not just zombies, but zombies versus up to four co-op human players.

Slick and stylish with undead that move faster than you'd think the undead would, Left 4 Dead



You can play as Batman or Robin in LEGO Batman: The Videogame.

really brings it. It's fun, it's creepy, and, thanks to brilliant A.I. technology, it's different every single time you play. The game tailors itself to the player's abilities. How cool is that? Seriously, is there anything in gaming better than the human struggle against hordes of swarming zombies? Yep, there is one thing better: The Left 4 Dead co-op human struggle against hordes of swarming zombies. This is the future of co-op.

Gears of War 2

Platform: Xbox 3
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+



OK, maybe there is a better gift than a flamethrower. Maybe it's a flamethrower and a chainsaw! Oh, wait. Maybe it's a flamethrower, a chainsaw, and a meat shield! You can give all this and more with Gears of War 2.

It's good. It's really good. Story goes that you and your squad have to save the world — again — but don't worry, the story isn't really where it's at. The upgraded online multi-player is awesome. Did I mention the graphics are crispy-crunchy good, which makes toasting enemies look extra hot? Don't cheap out — if you're thinking of gifting GOW2, spring for a bag of marshmallows to go with.

Little Big Planet

Platform: PS3
Genre: Puzzle platformer
Rated: T: Teen



The most highly anticipated game for the PS3 in 2008 is here. There's never been a game quite like this in the history of gaming goodness. In LBP, players control little yarn characters, "sackboys," who wander all over the globe. Each cute, customizable character can manipulate and interact with all the objects and environments in the game. Ambitious players can use the stunning level-creator tools to develop their own game environments and share them online. If you don't have a PS3er on your list, then you need to get one just so you can buy them LBP and go over and play it. Yep, it's that good.

Rayman Raving Rabbids: TV Party

Platform: Nintendo DS, Wii
Genre: Party
Rated: E: 10+



Party, party, party! With super-cute 3D visuals, metric tonnes of humour, great spoofs on popular TV shows and movies, and up to eight players at a time, this instalment of Rayman is jam-packed with more than 50 mini-games. Not

just regular mini-games, but the kind that get you and your kids off the couch by making use of the Wii Balance Board. It's the very first game I've played that offers the ability to control my character simply by using my derriere — come on, that's a party.

Resistance 2

Platform: PS3
Genre: First-person shooter
Rated: M: 17+



Exclusive to the PS3, Resistance 2 launches with the biggest monsters ever, wicked-awesome graphics, remote-detonating Magnum ammo, eight-player dynamic campaign co-op, and one-to-60 multi-player on massive maps. If that isn't enough, it's just plain adrenaline-pumping fun. You'll serve as a bullet-magnet for waves of aggressive and accurate enemies, but you've got one of the coolest arsenals in the history of gaming. It's a complete, hugely entertaining package for Resistance fans and newcomers alike.

Next week's lineup

GIFT GUIDES For a roundup of beauty products, tech gifts and much more, pick up Metro's next Holiday Shopping Guide on Dec. 11.

21 shopping days remain before Christmas.

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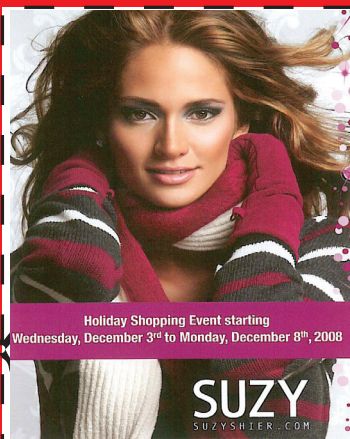
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Holiday Shopping Guide III

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

The big enchiladas

The capo di tutti capi of DVD gift sets this holiday season is undeniably **HBO's Complete Sopranos box** — a bricklike reliquary in funereal black on black, with the discs housed in a hardcover book tightly shrouded in a black felt bag. The whole package is a cross between the archival and the morbid, and the prime special features are spread over two new bonus discs that include dinner chats with creator David Chase and key members of the cast and crew, as well as two fawning interviews with Chase by actor Alec Baldwin, who was never able to fulfill his dream of a role on the show.

The other big box this season is **MGM/Fox's Hollywood Musicals set**, a gaudy marquee-themed

package that features 50 musicals from the 30s to the present day. The byzantine world of rights ownership means that most of MGM's signature pre-1952 musicals are missing, so Fox dominates the first of four sections of the box, which includes films like **Babes In Toyland**, **State Fair** and **Moon Over Miami**. The '50s are dominated by Rogers and Hammerstein classics like **Oklahoma** and **The King And I**, and the '60s set features a lot of Elvis movies. The final set, covering the '70s to the present, is a truly mixed bag, though a set with titles like **All That Jazz**, **The Rocky Horror Picture Show** and **Moulin**

Rouge can claim to be fairly representative of the era.

Finally, Fox's successor to its landmark Ford At Fox set from last year arrives in the form of **Murnau, Borzage & Fox**, another deluxe box profiling the careers of two directors — F.W. Murnau and Frank Borzage — and studio head William Fox during

the transition from silent movies to talkies. Includes the classic Murnau film **Sunrise**, as well as several other rarely-seen but brilliant films from an era unjustly overlooked.

The whole thing

HBO has a few big complete season collections this year, including sets for **The Wire** and **Deadwood**. There's not a lot new in The Wire set except for some prequel shorts, but the new box does slim down the show's shelf real

estate. The **Deadwood** collection does the same, but throws in a few new bonus features, including a wander down the streets of the show's main set with creator David Milch, who is clearly unhappy with his show's end.

HBO also has a complete **Get Smart** collection with a simple but clever package that requires you to open a set of doors echoing the show's famous title sequence to get to the discs, which are loaded with bonus features. Finally, HBO has released a slim collection of **Generation Kill**, the Iraq War miniseries from The Wire creator David Simon, probably the most successful portrait of the conflict made so far.

Looking to dominate the TV box set market, HBO has also released the World War II miniseries **Band Of Brothers** on Blu-

ray, which virtually duplicates the earlier DVD offering but integrates several of the special features more seamlessly.

Not new but improved

The **Planet Of The Apes** films have also been given a Blu-ray upgrade in a slip-cased set from Fox, which excludes the TV and animated iterations of the franchise contained in the earlier "monkey head" gift set in favour of a reverent look at the five Apes films as cultural artifacts of the late '60s and early '70.

The Best Picture Collection from Sony is a grab bag of Oscar-winning titles, from Frank Capra chestnuts like **It Happened One Night** and **You Can't Take It With You** through David Lean's **Lawrence Of Arabia** and **Bridge On The River Kwai** to **Kramer Vs. Kramer** and **Gandhi**. If anything, it proves how much less fun Oscar films have become over the years.

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Holiday Shopping Guide III

Dreaming of a Blu-ray Christmas

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginis@metronews.ca

Toshiba XD-E300 upconverting DVD player (\$129.99)

Toshiba was the loser in the high-def disc wars last year, supporting the (to my eyes, superior) HD-DVD format. They're not willing to run up the white flag and surrender yet, which brings us to the XD-E500, their latest generation of upconverting DVD players, introduced to the



market with the assumption that there are enough consumers with DVD libraries out there unwilling to swap them for Blu-ray at notable cost.

The XD-E500 is essentially an upconverting player that allows the viewer control over aspects of image control to give the impression of a sharper, more vivid DVD picture on high-def screens. If you're at all familiar with image editing programs like Photoshop, you'll have no problem understanding how the XD-E500 tweaks sharpness, contrast and saturation to squeeze every bit of juice out of a 480i image upconverted to 1080p. The one major improvement I noticed was the ability of the player to tightly render patterns that would have been jangled, moiré-pattern messes on regular DVD.

Be warned — the XD-E500 doesn't put out true HD, but it comes as close as DVD will go, at a very reasonable price.



Panasonic DMP-BD35 (\$349.99)

Samsung BD-P1500 Blu-ray player (\$299.99)

Sony BDP S350 (\$299.99)

As Blu-ray players start bearing down on the magic \$200 price point (keep your eyes peeled during Boxing Week), these three machines will probably end up on somebody's wish list.

Sony was the most improved of all the players. The BDP S350 was the best performer of the bunch, with the nicest interface and performance. All three machines feature

Ethernet jacks for online firmware updates and possible BD-Live interactivity, which is good to see, since this was often missing on Blu-ray players during the format war.

The Panasonic's main flaw is the load time — the slowest of the three — and the price, which needs to be more competitive. The Samsung is a fine machine, but the review unit I had went through a frustrating series of malfunctions, not recognizing commands from either the remote or the buttons on the unit itself.



LG Scarlet 42LG60 LCD TV (\$1,999.99)

The flat panel TV market has reached a sort of plateau of quality, at least when you're shopping for brand name sets — picture quality is uniformly good, even excellent, now that full 1080p is pretty much standard above a certain screen size, and as a result you're likely to be picking a unit based on criterion like

features and aesthetics.

In terms of aesthetics, it's hard to beat the LG Scarlet line, and especially the very sculptural 42LG60 unit, with its black lacquer with red accents and the big, backlit circular hole that functions as power button and status indicator. It's not the sort of machine that you'll hide in some home entertainment cupboard — it practically begs to be wall-mounted.

The picture quality is superb, with a room light sensor that adjusts for ambience, and four HDMI units for gamers.

Blu-ray players, from top left: Sony BDP S350, Samsung BD-P1500, and Panasonic DMP-BD35.

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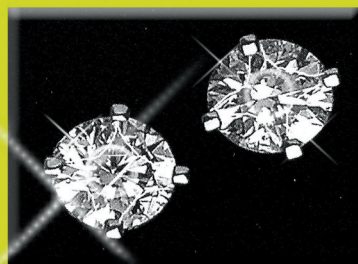
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They Look Like
1.00 Carat Each!

Leeanna Diamond Stud Earrings

1195.00 pair

These diamond studs give the appearance of diamond studs worth 10,000.00! You simply must see them.

Larger sizes available. 14Kt gold.



Fabulous Jewellery Finds

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Zellers

Help Santa make out his list...

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This unique, interactive gift card separates the sweet from the sassy with a playful press on the Nice and Naughty indicator, complete with lights and sound.



This is no ordinary gift card: it's the card with a little holiday magic!

**Gift Cards are redeemable at:
The Bay, Zellers & Home Outfitters**

Visit **www.zellers.com**
for more great gift cards.

everything from A to 

This sleek champagne-coloured Dyson DC16 Animal is specifically designed to remove pet hair and other clingy objects from upholstery. Available for \$229.99 at Sears, The Bay, Home Outfitters, Future Shop and online at dyson.com. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

All I want for Christmas

BY ENZA SUPERMODEL

enza.supermodel.anderson@gmail.com



Leah Miller

Claim to fame: MuchMusic VJ and host of So You Think You Can Dance Canada

GIFT SUGGESTION
Baked goods.

SHOPPING ADVENTURE

It's always an adventure trying to do that last-minute shopping. Fighting crowds at the mall is a bad idea!

BEST GIFT RECEIVED & WHY

A garnet cocktail ring from my Grandma Barb.

WORST GIFT RETURNED & WHY
I can't think of one! I've never returned a gift.

HOLIDAY ADVICE

Don't stress about buying presents as the holidays aren't just about that. They're about spending time with family and loved ones.



Mike Holmes

Claim to fame: HGTV's Holmes on Homes

GIFT SUGGESTION
Money is the perfect gift. If you give them money, they can pick what they want.

SHOPPING ADVENTURE

I go in. I know what I want. I get it ... and I leave. I'm not one of those people that walk around.

BEST GIFT RECEIVED & WHY

Just being with my kids. I'm the type of person that if I want something, I get it myself.

WORST GIFT RETURNED & WHY
It would be a sweater from a friend. I re-gifted and gave it to someone else.

HOLIDAY ADVICE

Keep smiling. If you don't, it's not going to be a fun experience.

Colin & Justin

Claim to fame: Colin & Justin's Home Heist on HGTV

GIFT SUGGESTION

We adore EVERYTHING by Kiehls. And their candles are particularly awesome. Whatever you buy this Christmas, make sure a Forrest Rain candle is on the list. It's the loveliest, freshest smell you'll ever sniff. We're also massive champagne fiends, and our motto is: "A day without champagne is like a day without sunshine."

SHOPPING ADVENTURE

We went to Times Square in New York a couple of Christmases ago. The lights were awesome and we stayed in a Philippe Starck hotel, which was gorgeous beyond belief. Dominic Monaghan from Lost was there too and he was the sweetest guy ever. He knows a Scottish friend of ours called Stuart and that was a real ice breaker. We partied in Greenwich Village with family and spent so much money on gifts that we had to wire our bank in Britain to bail us out.



Then we missed our flight home and couldn't rebook our hotel as it was, by that point, full. So, we had to call up a friend (with whom we hadn't been in contact for five years) in a suburb called Larchmont and ask if we could stay over. After two awkward nights, we flew back to Britain, then on to Mauritius for our annual holiday. We partied on the beach with Nelson Mandela, who always stays there for New Year's. Fact! We had New Year's lunch with Faye Dunaway to wrap it all up!

A gorgeous star-studded holiday period!

BEST GIFT RECEIVED & WHY

We bought each other Chanel J12 watches as Christmas gifts last year. We have matching models in complementary white and black and they are gorgeous! Hey, we've worked hard...

WORST GIFT RETURNED & WHY

We are lucky enough to say that most of our friends know us well enough to give us appropriate gifts! Everyone

knows we LOVE LOVE LOVE scented candles (hint!) of any variety so it's difficult to miss the mark!

HOLIDAY ADVICE

Get your shopping done before the crowds go crazy! And eat, drink, and be merry when the party starts! Everything in moderation never hurt anybody! However, never drink and drive and always make sure you have a clean conscience over the holidays. Kick back, relax and start planning those New Year's resolutions!!

Spend this Christmas at Nettleton's with the 3 Wise Men.

The brothers are back together again.

Give the gift of Diamonds



Your Canadian Diamond Headquarters

MAPLE LEAF DIAMONDS™

Nettleton's Jewellery Ltd.

Westgate Shopping Centre

1309 Carling Avenue

613-722-7697

Sounds of the season

BRIAN TOWIE
brian.towie@metronews.ca

THE HITS — and misses — just keep on coming. Last week, Metro reviewed some of the best, and worst, Christmas CDs of the season, but we would be remiss in passing up this opportunity for more.

Tony Bennett
feat. The Count Basie Band

Album: A Swingin' Christmas

Label: Sony/BMG

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

His voice reveals a man in his golden years, but Tony Bennett's natural talent for evoking fun and capturing drama in every track he sets his hand to remains evergreen. Jovial big-band arrangements back up Bennett's grandfatherly warmth here, especially on Christmas Time Is Here and My Favorite Things. Superb stuff.

Aretha Franklin

Album: This Christmas

Label: DMI Records

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

The greatest singer of all time, according to Rolling

Stone magazine, puts the spirit back into the season on her first-ever Christmas disc with strong ensembles, an 11-piece choir and a duet with her son. The 66-year-old Queen Of Soul particularly shines on gospel adaptations such as The Lord Will Make A Way, Angels We Have Heard On High and Silent Night — as you might expect from a preacher's daughter.

Sarah Brightman

Album: A Winter Symphony

Label: EMI Music

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

Brightman puts in a good mix of old and new in this eagerly anticipated followup to her Symphony album. Orchestral backup enhances Brightman's theatrical style on classic hymns such as Silent Night and Amazing Grace, along with modern winter-themed ditties — among them Vince Gill's Colder Than Winter and Neil Diamond's I've Been This Way Before. But does an album, even a holiday-themed one, really need two versions of Ave Maria?

80GB
PLAYSTATION[®]3
core for
\$399.99



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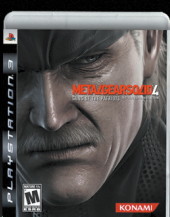
**BUY A
PLAYSTATION[®]3
AT EB GAMES[™]
GAMESTOP[™]
AND GET ONE
OF THESE FIVE
GAMES FREE**



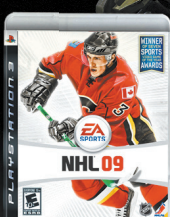
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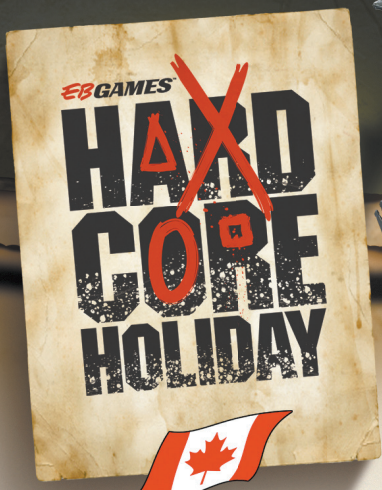
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LIMIT 1 PER CUSTOMER. NO DEALERS PLEASE. At time of printing, all products are expected to be available. Used product excluded. Free game offer valued up to \$69.99. Collector's Editions are excluded.

Holiday Shopping Guide III

Spread some Christmas cheer



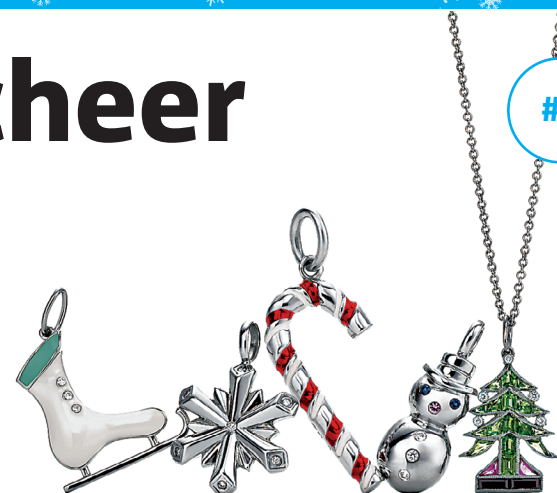
#1



#2



#3



#4

#1

Harajuku fragrances

Visit: shoppersdrugmart.ca
Love, Baby, Music, Lil' Angel, and G are \$49/30 mL, or \$62 for a set (5 x 10 mL).

#2

Bejewelled ballet flats

Phone: 1-800-653-6289
Visit: oldnavy.ca
Make her feet sparkle with bejewelled flats (\$26.50).

#3

Stepping it up

Visit: ecco.com
Elista leather and suede boots in retro red, \$275. They are also available in black.

#4

18k white gold & silver charms

Phone: 1-800-843-3269
Visit: tiffany.ca
These white gold and sterling silver charms range in price from \$140 to \$2,400.



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

across Canada

DECEMBER 4, 2008 TO JANUARY 7, 2009

ILLUMINATION CEREMONY

Thursday, December 4, at 6 pm
on Parliament Hill

Join in the celebration, with carol singing, BeaverTails® pastries, compliments of BeaverTails®, and hot chocolate, compliments of Enbridge Gas Distribution (while quantities last).

christmaslights.gc.ca
613-239-5000 • TTY: 613-239-5090

The ceremony will be broadcast live at 6 pm
on Rogers TV Cable 22.

ROGERS TV

National Capital Commission
Commission de la capitale nationale

Canada

Neat treats for him



#1

#2

#3

#4

#1

For the man on the go

Visit: shoppersdrugmart.ca
The Real Shaving Co. Travel Kit (\$16.99) includes skincare products.

#2

Help stock his bar

Visit: homesense.ca
This golf bag drink shaker set is available for \$29.99 at HomeSense.

#3

Smooth moves

Visit: philips.com
This Philips Nivea for Men Shaver (\$109.99) features a lotion dispenser.

#4

Wash and wear

Available across Canada.
Old Spice gift set (\$10.99) includes Classic Cologne and Classic After-Shave.

ORGEL table lamp \$19.99 was \$24.99. Handmade paper shade. Lacquered steel base. Max 60W. W15xH57cm. RA.



**NEW
LOWER
PRICE**

ORGEL table lamp
\$19.99
was \$24.99



IKEA STOCKHOLM bowl \$39.99. Stainless steel. Ø42cm.

LACK side table \$14.99/ea was \$19.99/ea. Assorted colours. Embossed painted finish. L55xW55xH45cm. RA.



**NEW
LOWER
PRICE**

LACK side table
\$14.99/ea
was \$19.99/ea



THE IKEA GIFT CARD
Available in any denomination so they can choose the perfect gift.

Tall, handsome, and loves a good book.

BILLY bookcase

BILLY bookcase with BYOM glass doors and extra shelf

\$229
was \$265

Valid from Dec. 4-7 only.



BILLY bookcase with BYOM glass doors and extra shelf \$229 was \$265. Black-brown. Ash veneer. Adjustable shelves. W80xD28xH202cm. RA.



was \$115

BRANÄS basket. Rattan. Handwoven. Fits in BILLY bookcase. **Basket \$6.99.** L25xW23xH15cm. **Basket \$6.99.** L25xW23xH23cm.

**NEW
LOWER
PRICE**

REKTANGEL vase
\$5.99
was \$8.99



REKTANGEL vase series. Mouth blown glass. **\$3.99 was \$4.99.** H14cm. **\$5.99 was \$8.99.** H22cm. **SMYCKA amaryllis \$9.99/ea.** H65cm.



RIBBA frame series. Black. **\$6.99.** 5x7". Holds 3 1/2x5 1/2" picture with mat. **\$8.99.** 8x10". Holds 5x7" picture with mat. **\$10.99.** 9x9". Holds 5x5" picture with mat.

4 days only! December 4-7

BILLY bookcase \$79 was \$115. Black-brown, birch veneer and beech veneer. Adjustable shelves. W80xD28xH202cm. RA. **LIMIT 2 PER CUSTOMER.** While supplies last. No rain checks.



NORESUND table \$19.99. Black-brown. Powder coated steel. Ø50xH66cm. RA.



SMÅRT table lamp \$19.99. Assorted patterns. Mouth blown glass. Max 15W. Ø9xH46cm. RA.

KNUBBIG table lamp series. Assorted colours. Mouth blown glass. Max 15W. RA. **\$9.99.** Ø12xH11cm. **\$16.99.** Ø20xH21cm.

KNUBBIG table lamp
\$16.99



POLARVIDE throw \$5.99/ea. Assorted colours. 100% polyester. L170xW130cm.



TULLSTA armchair \$129. Natural. 100% cotton cover. W80xD72xH78cm. RA.

20 meatballs and fries
\$6.99



After 11am daily.

IKEA OTTAWA

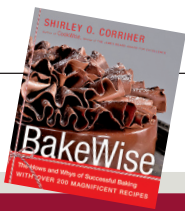
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Love your home



BakeWise: The Hows and Whys of Successful Baking by Shirley O. Corriher (Simon & Schuster Publishing, \$47) is the only non-Canadian cookbook on this page. Written by the author of CookWise, this followup book has been very much anticipated by foodies everywhere. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Food

"Who doesn't like a rich chocolate brownie every now and then?"

Barb Holland/for Metro Canada



A bible

The Brownie Lover's Bible by Lisa Slater (Whitecap Books, \$25) features more than 100 modern and classic brownie-inspired recipes, taking the brownie to a whole new level.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Welcome to the book buffet

À la carte

Barb Holland

Metro Food Writer



Each fall a fresh crop of Canadian cookbooks are produced in time for the big gift-giving season. All but one of the books on this page feature homegrown talent.

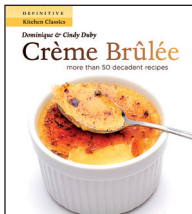
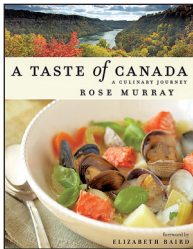
A Taste of Canada, A Culinary Journey by Rose Murray (Whitecap Books \$35):

This volume shows us just how distinctive Canada cuisine really is and how our land, climate and people shape it. It is histor-

ical, anecdotal, a travelogue and a wonderful read. Here is a lovely coffee

Crème Brûlée: More Than 50 Decadent Recipes by Dominique and Cindy Duby (Whitecap Books \$20):

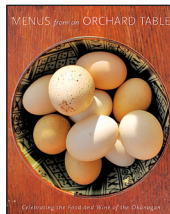
This is an extensive single



subject book as it explores the history of crème brûlée; the science of making of crème brûlée; basic ingredients and equipment requirements; the cooking process; sweet and savoury alternatives; and wine pairings.

Menus for an Orchard Table, Celebrating the Food & Wine of the Okanagan by Heidi Noble (Whitecap Books, \$35):

This book is a collection of seasonal recipes from Joie Wines and Farm Cooking School's renowned outdoor orchard dinners.



The Main: Recipes by Anthony Sedlak (Whitecap Books, \$30):

This release is the accompanying book to the same named show on the Food Network. Sedlak chooses one ingredient as the focus for a variety of dishes and creates dinner menus around it.



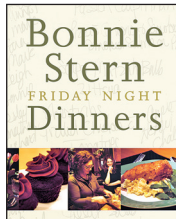
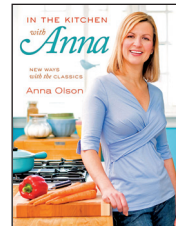
In the Kitchen with Anna: New Ways with the Classics, by Anna Olson (Whitecap Books, \$30):

Like the one before, this book also accompanies Ol-

son's latest Food Network series, providing re-

Friday Night Dinners by Bonnie Stern (Random House Canada, \$50):

This is the latest cookbook by this well-known Canadian cooking teacher and author. Bonnie celebrates Friday night dinner as the way to start the weekend



with menus for every season and occasion, holidays, barbecues, fast suppers and feasts.

On the web

Try before you buy?

• For a recipe of Braised Beef with Caramelized Root Vegetables, an excerpt from A Taste of Canada: A Culinary Journey by Rose Murray, visit metronews.ca.



Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.



on TV

what's cooking

one-hour festive tv special



NETWORK

Sunday
December 7 at 7 p.m.

Encore presentations
from December 13 to 23

sensational celebrations made easy!

This December, gather 'round with Martin and his special guests. They'll prepare delicious recipes together and share some great ideas for stress-free holiday entertaining with family and friends. You won't want to miss this party! Visit kraftcanada.com/TV for details.

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KRAFT
kraftcanada.com

Royal treatment at the shopping mall

U.S. retailers hope to put shoppers in a merry enough mood to shop amid economic tough times, by decking the halls, stocking up with brightly coloured merchandise, even lining up employees at the door to applaud customers as they enter the store. **REUTERS**

29

Style



Hutton's hot comeback

At 64, Lauren Hutton is giving the young crop of It models competition in the ad campaign area. In addition to starring in the autumn/winter ads for Mango, Hutton will appear in the campaign for Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen's line, Elizabeth and James. "She's older and she's beautiful, and that is sexy to us," Contactmusic.com quotes Ashley as saying. Hutton also modelled with Mary-Kate in an editorial spread in Harper's Bazaar earlier this year.

KENYA HUNT/FOR METRO CANADA

Stay in with sleepwear and slippers

Style File

Kim Elbo

kim.elbo@gmail.com

ask kim

I'm looking to personalize a gift and would like to get it embroidered. Where can I go to get this done?

Some department stores and home décor stores such as Restoration Hardware offer monogram embroidery for a small price, but they may have a limited selection of styles and fonts. If the store where you bought your gift does not offer the service you're looking for, head to an embroiderer or tailor.

E-mail your style questions to kim.elbo@gmail.com.

Vancouver's Kim Elbo has a passion for fashion. Here she shares the latest style tips.

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt

Exclusively at
metronews.ca/globalstyle

**Tiered Ruffles**

Designer: La Senza
Shop: La Senza
Address: Various locations
lasenza.com

**Sweet Stripes**

Designer: Spreegirl
Shop: BeautyMark
beautymark.ca

**See-through Aqua**

Designer: La Vie en Rose
Shop: La Vie en Rose
Address: Various locations
lavieenrose.com

**Bootie**

Designer: La Vie en Rose
Shop: La Vie en Rose
Address: Various locations
lavieenrose.com

**Knit Shoe**

Designer: American Eagle
Shop: American Eagle
Address: Various locations
ae.com

**Slip-on**

Designer: Bonjour Fleurette
Shop: Fine Finds
finefindsboutique.com

psst... Fierce! Project Runway Season Four winner Christian Siriano will design his first-ever footwear and handbag collection, available exclusively at select Payless stores across Canada in Fall '09.

Sleepwear

Leave the fireplace on and stay comfy and cosy in bed with these three camisole sets. Like to keep things hot in bed? Search for fabrics like cashmere, wool or cotton to stay warm all night. Finer fabrics like silks will keep you cooler in bed if you like it a little chilly. Remember when you're getting out of bed, you might want to cover up quickly so look out for a dressing gown or a house coat the next time you're out shopping for sleepwear.

Stressed? Take a bath and relax with Soap & Glory's Calm One Calm All double-function formula bubbling bath soak and built-in lotion. Available at Shoppers Drug Mart for \$10.



Slippers

We all know how chilly our feet can get during the winter months, and when you're at home it's even worse with hardwood or tiled flooring, so keep warm with slippers. Pamper your peds with a pair complete with sole padding and thick knits to surround your feet in comfortable socks. Or go for slip-ons for easy access like the Bonjour Fleurette slipper. Look for rubber soles — if you're prone to slipping — and washable versions.

tip: Before climbing into a bath, fill your bathroom sink with hot water. Then place your body lotion in the hot water. When you get out of your bath, your lotion will be nice and warm. — tipztime.com

YOU COULD

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SO YOU THINK YOU CAN

DANCE CANADA

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PRIZE INCLUDES:

- Flight and accommodations for two
- A pair of tickets to see the finale!

FOR A CHANCE TO **WIN** VISIT
METRONEWS.CA



No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 4, 2008. Approximate retail value of prize is \$1,500. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.



Do it daily.

The 2008 Gemini Award Winning reality TV series Project Runway Canada returns for an all-new season on Global Television, with encore performances on SLICETM, on Jan. 27. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA



The greatest

Brad Pitt's enigmatic Fight Club antihero Tyler Durden has been crowned the Greatest Movie Character of All Time by Empire magazine.

IMDB.COM

Britney morphs into Madonna

MusicReviews

music@metronews.ca

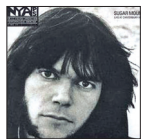
Neil Young

Album: Sugar Mountain, Live at Canterbury House 1968

Label: Reprise/Warner

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

THIS IS A HAPPIER, more innocent Neil Young than the slow-talking introvert we heard on the 1971 Massey Hall concert that was released last year as part of his performance series. Here, he's laughing with the crowd, exchanging jokes, riffing on Classical Gas and telling wild stories about getting fired from a Coles book store for eating little red diet pills. Recorded in gleaming two-track stereo (voice on left, guitar on right), the 14 songs are drawn mainly from his underappreciated self-titled debut — the concert was recorded at an Ann Arbor coffee house the week of its release. There's also a few Buffalo Springfield classics, like Out of My Mind, Mr. Soul, and Nowadays Clancy Can't Even Sing. True Neil Young fans will go gaga for the title track, his boyhood ode to Sugar Mountain, as well as the



surrealist saga, Last Trip To Tulsa and the beautiful, but rarely heard, Old Laughing Lady.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Rivers Cuomo

Album: Alone II

Label: ADGC/Universal

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

LAST YEAR

RIVERS CUOMO, the con-

flicted

Weezer

frontman, gave fans a treat — a collection of unreleased demos. Well, now he's giving us more. The second installment in his "Alone" series offers up another batch of loose, somewhat lo-fi tracks that actually rival any of his band's more recent albums. Unlike some demo discs, this doesn't show Cuomo experimenting — it's got all the fuzzy downstrokes and layered harmony that's made him popular. The best part isn't the tunes, though, it's the Harvard grad's relaxed, playful demeanor. If only



he was having as much fun in his day job.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Britney Spears

Album: Circus

Label: Jive/Sony

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

THE WORLD IS

certainly a

very freaky

place. First



Michael Jackson morphed physically into Diana Ross. Now, Britney Spears is morphing musically into Madonna. Maybe there was some kind of tongue-to-tongue gene transference in that liplock Madonna threw on Britney a couple of years back. With the aid a phalanx of producers armed with the latest computer gadgetry to bolster her otherwise limp voice, Britney has managed to put together a decent pop/dance album. It's not as good as last year's surprising Blackout released when Brits was still loony as two sackfuls of cats. But no one cared to listen back then, so this will probably be praised as Britney's greatest ever ... further contributing to the bizarre reconstruction of this troubled pop star into the heiress of the Material Girl's legacy. Ugh. She's even dressing like her.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

The Bronx

Album: The Bronx III

Label: White Drugs/Distort

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

THINK EARLY

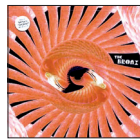
GUNS

N'

ROSES

epito-

mized



the dark underbelly of Los Angeles? One listen to the larynx-tearing primal screams of Matt Caughthran and his no-frills punk rock backers from L.A. might change your view. Although the third self-titled outing often veers towards the hard-rock bite of a melodic Motörhead, there's still some Black Flag-like brute force that lingers throughout. After 34 minutes, you'll either feel cathartic or resist all urges to shout back ever again.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Los Campesinos!

Album: We Are Beautiful, We Are Doomed

Label: Arts & Crafts

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

AS IF THE HY-

PER shout-

ests and

messy pop

squeals that

marked last

April's Hold

On Now, Youngster ...

weren't enough. Some

eight months later — you

read that correctly! — a

follow-up arrives that

stabilizes said hyperactivity

but maintaining a no-

less-frenetic pace. Cram-

ming every nook and

cranny with a better or-

ganized mix of violins,



guitars and glockenspiel, Gareth, Aleksandra et al barrel through 10 diary-like entries of an energetic youthful existence filled with equal parts lyrical romanticism and sarcasm.

Ian Nathanson/for Metro Canada

Akon

Album: Freedom

Label: SRC/Universal

Rating: ⓈⓈⓈⓈ

JUST WHEN

FANS have

come to ex-

pect hit-

making hip-

hop from At-

lanta-based

rapper Akon, the contro-

versial musician has

gone euro-pop. That's

right — on his third

record Akon employs a

bevy of synths, disco

beats and an auto-tuned,

pitch perfect voice that

does far more singing

than rhyming. It's not a

bad move for the R&B

star — the tunes are ac-

tually catchy, relaxed

and, most importantly,

different than what he's

done before. Some of the

lyrics, which are mostly

about love, are over the

top, but it's still a solid

effort for this now veter-

an performer.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada



Home + Garden

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Kitchen - The kitchen is one room that can take a lot of colour, so take a cue from the Europeans and paint your walls. Update the sink with an elegant goose-neck faucet, or buy new breakfast stools or a rolling butcher block. Stash appliances in cupboards and leave out one statement piece: a vintage breadbox, an old-fashioned scale or a trio of quirky tins.

Living Room - New window treatments can be more economical than you think. Look into ready-made panels that can be customized by ironing on a grosgrain border with fusible tape in an accent colour. If you are handy with a sewing machine, buy yardage at inexpensive discount fabric stores and make them yourself.

(continued online...)



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OFFICIAL
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WILL ALLIE BE
CANADA'S FAVOURITE DANCER?

SO YOU THINK YOU CAN
DANCE
CANADA

SUNDAY 9



dance.ctv.ca

Here come the fillers

NBC shows getting bulked up to cover airtime

Intelle**Vision**



NOW I KNOW THE NETWORKS ARE IN TROUBLE: Casablanca, a much-loved film classic, is 102 minutes long. The Wizard Of Oz is 101 minutes, and Citizen Kane is 105 minutes, but when *Celebrity Apprentice* returns to NBC early next year, it will be two hours long, with commercials.

I'm not sure what that all means, but I think it bears thinking about.

"Donald has always felt the boardrooms were too short, and I think he's right," Mark Burnett, the show's executive producer, told *TV Week* magazine. "Right now, there's really only about nine minutes of footage that we use and the boardroom (scenes) go on for hours sometimes."

The problem has been trying to squeeze it all in. Every season, we go through the struggle of cutting the show down."

A shortfall in programming was one of the outcomes feared when the writers' strike ground on to a third month, and it seems to have played out on cue, especially at NBC, the most erratic and afflicted of the four networks, especially under the up-is-down-black-is-white reign of Ben Silverman.

Celebrity Apprentice isn't the only show that's getting bulked up to fill airtime — *The Biggest Loser: Couples* will be expanding to fit a two-hour slot on Tuesdays, and *Howie Do It*, the new *Howie Mandel* comedy vehicle co-produced by NBC and Canwest, will be hour-long on Fridays.

According to *TV Week*, NBC will feature at least five hours of unscripted programming in primetime every week this winter.

A shortfall in programming was one of the outcomes feared when the writers' strike ground on to a third month, and it seems to have played out on cue, especially at NBC.

And if that doesn't work out, there are live executions and all those hours of Japanese game shows where people take pot shots at each other over shark tanks and open sewers.

COOKED UP: First Gordon Ramsay's career goes into a power dive when he's hit with allegations of cheating on his wife and betraying the family-man image he's cultivated over the years, and now Nigella Lawson is accused of riding

a fake bus and cooking in a fake home.

The UK Daily Mail tabloid accused Lawson of deceiving her viewers by staging a scene of her riding a London bus with extras, and of shooting the cooking scenes supposedly set at her home in a studio. Lawson fired back at the "dingbats" at the Mail in a Guardian article, saying that viewers know what they're watching. "When I say on TV, 'This cake takes 20 minutes to bake' and then one minute later it's ready, what do they think I have done? Do they think I have some kind of Time Lord qualities?"

If this looks at all ridiculous, let's just remember we're talking about British food programs, the mere existence of which is an improbability defying all known laws of nature.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Winehouse hubby returning to prison

PEOPLE Amy Winehouse's husband Blake Fielder-Civil is being sent back to prison, just one month after he was released into rehab, his lawyer People.com reports his lawyer as saying.

"I can confirm he has been recalled," says Fielder-Civil's lawyer Kate Anderson, declining to state the reason. A source close to Fielder-Civil tells People that he failed a drug test.

The 26-year-old, who was sentenced to 27 months on charges of assault and attempting to pervert the course of justice, had been in rehab as part of his early release from jail.

Anderson tells People that "the position on recall is that you then serve the remainder of the sentence" — meaning Fielder-



Civil would remain in jail until 2010.

The U.K.'s Sun newspaper also reports that Fielder-Civil ran away from the rehab facility Tuesday night to visit to his estranged wife.

Winehouse, 25, remains hospitalized in London as part of her ongoing treatment, her rep told People earlier this week.

Fielder-Civil "turned up in hospital and hell broke loose," according to The Sun's source. "He was asking Amy to forgive him."

Winehouse and Fielder-Civil wed in Miami in 2007. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Entertainment in brief

FILM Fresh from the box-office success of *Twilight*, Kristen Stewart is set to portray Joan Jett in *The Runaways*, the rock 'n' roll biopic of the 1970s all-girl band. Video di-

rector Floria Sigismondi wrote the screenplay and is directing. Jett will serve as an executive producer. The filmmakers are eyeing a 2009 start. **REUTERS**

critics' corner

Before Sunrise

An American (Ethan Hawke) traveling by train to Vienna, Austria, encounters a beautiful French student (Julie Delpy) on her way back to Paris. After the two strike up a conversation over coffee, he suggests she come with him so they can spend more time together before his flight home. This romantic 1995 film marked a departure for "Slacker" director Richard Linklater. 9 PM on 61 V



Cake

Heather Graham stars in this 2005 romantic comedy as a perpetually single travel writer who takes over the operation of her ill father's bridal magazine. To help her learn the ropes, her dad assigns her a mentor (David Sutcliffe) — who happens to be the same guy she drunkenly hit on at a friend's wedding. Taye Diggs and Sandra Oh also star. 9 PM on 40 BVO

Crime drama up for six Spirit Awards

FILM Border-smuggling crime movie *Frozen River* won best picture and breakthrough acting awards at the Gotham Independent Film ceremony Tuesday, as well as sharing top billing in nominations for the Spirit Awards for independent filmmakers.

Melissa Leo, 48, was named by IFP, organizer of the Gotham awards, as breakthrough actor of the year for her role in *Frozen River*.

Earlier on Tuesday, *Frozen River* received six Spirit Award independent movie nominations along with family drama *Rachel Getting Married* starring Anne Hathaway, and small-town drama *Ballast*.

The Spirit Awards, one of the best-known honours for independent movies, are handed out Feb. 21 on the eve of the annual Oscar ceremony.

Spirit Award organizers Tuesday announced that this year's prestigious Robert Altman Award, given to the best director, casting director and ensemble cast, was won by *Synecdoche, New York*. **REUTERS**

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at [metronews.ca/movies](#)

OT	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00		
12/4/08	265	353	2	TVO	Megastructures		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Foyle's War "All Clear"		Masterworks (Part 2 of 2)		Agenda-Paikin	
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Gabon (N)		The Office (N)	Billable Hours	Fascinating People of 2008		News (N)	
	-	-	5	SRC	Virginie (SC)	Houde	Enquête (HDTV) (N)		Grosse vie (N)	C.A. (N) (SC)	Le Téléjournal (N) (SC)		La Zone	
	209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Santa Baby (2006, Comedy) Jenny McCarthy, Ivan Sergei.				(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)	
	196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) ER (HDTV) (N)		News (N)	
	208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey New York Rangers at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live)						CBC News: The National		The Hour	
	-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Name Is Earl		Kath & Kim (N)	The Office (N)	30 Rock	(10:01) ER (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	117	713	10	TVA	La Fièvre de la danse (SC)		A New Day: Céline live à Las Vegas (HDTV)				TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque		
	-	-	11	QS	Rire et délire	Loft Story	À la recherche de John Christmas ** (2003, Drame)				Cent dix pour cent (SC)		Loft Story	
	137	763	12	TFO	Panorama		Rêver le français		Le Corbeau *** (1943, Suspense)		Photos		Volt	
	-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV PA) (N)		Survivor: Gabon (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		Two/Half Men	
news	216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case "Colors"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men		Cold Case	
	214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Ugly Betty (N)		30 Rock		30 Rock		News (N)	
	115	343	16	CFMT	Two/Half Men		The Simpsons		Vivere II		News (N)		The Simpsons	
	218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)		E! News		Name Is Earl		Kath & Kim (N)		The Road to Christmas (2006, Comedy) Jennifer Grey.	
	-	361	20	ABC	News (N)		Entertainment		Ugly Betty (N)		Grey's Anatomy (N)		Fascinating People of 2008	
	512	396	24	CPAC	La Période de questions		Heure polit.		L'Heure politique		Revue		Période-quest.	
	651	355	25	CTS	Happy Days		Laverne		Michael Coren Show		100 Huntley Street		Life Today	
	-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)		Seinfeld		Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		Kitchen Nightmares (PA)		News (N)	
	-	-	64	PBS	Business Rpt.		Daniel O'Donnell		at Home in Ireland		Visions of Ireland		Ready Digital	
	205	312	104	CTV	Hollywood		etalk		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		Grey's Anatomy (N)		(10:01) ER (HDTV) (N)	
	502	390	26	NW	CBC News		Newman		The Hour John Bolton.		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things	
sports	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		CNN Presents "Scream Bloody Murder" Genocide. (N)				Cooper 360	
	406	417	27	net	Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Best Damn Top 50 Special		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Hockey Central	
	126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct		Le National	
	400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!		Madden Nation		NFL Football Oakland Raiders at San Diego Chargers. (HDTV) (Live)				SportsCentre	
	410	403	52	SCR	College Basketball USC at Oklahoma. (Live)				Cabby Unlimit		Poker Million Pound Challenge.		NBA Basketball	
	411	457	56	OLN	Ed's Up		Videos		Commando: On the Front Line		Survivorman		Pilot Guides Specials	
	417	406	59	SC	Pinks		Pass Time		Pinks -- All Out		Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Wrecked	
	554	544	48	TEL	Santa Claus		Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside		Johnny Test		Futurama	
	557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place		That's-Raven		Zack & Cody		Natural-Sadie		Han. Montana	
	551	542	65	YTV	H2O, Just Add		Prank Patrol		Malcolm-Mid.		Sabrina-Witch		Futurama	
	570	580	29	MM	mmmtop		Back In		MuchMoreMusicOnStage		VideoFlow		Revival	
cable variety	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Wannabe"		The First 48		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		TNA IMPACT! (HDTV) (N)		CSI: Crime Scn	
	628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: NY "Wasted"		American Chopper		American Chopper		LA Ink "Kat Tales" (N)		Amer. Chopper	
	521	560	34	TLC	Overhaulin' (HDTV)		Club social		Envoyé spécial				Cité guide	
	145	761	35	TV5	Toute une histoire		ReGenesis "Haze"		Trailer Park		Trailer Park		NUMB3RS "Trust Metric"	
	616	521	39	SHO	Painkiller Jane		Snapshot		In the Mind ...		Cake (2005, Romance-Comedy) Heather Graham.		Law & Order	
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		The Body Machine		MythBusters				Daily Planet	
	520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Totally		Hollywood		The 42nd Annual CMA Awards		Festivities honor excellence in country music.	
	575	583	43	CMT	End of Leash		ET Canada		Rich Bride, Poor Bride		X-Weighted		The Biggest Loser	
	601	562	45	SLC	Air Farce		Just for Laughs		Corner Gas		The Simpsons		South Park	
	625	548	46	COM	House-Payne		House-Payne		Romy and Michele's High School Reunion ** (1997)		The Fix		Disaster DIY	
	294	529	47	TBS	House Hunters		Property Virgin		Holmes on Homes Attic.		The Hills		Super Sweet	
	600	564	49	H&G	Lost		Star Trek: Voyager		Battlestar Galactica		Chuck (HDTV)		Stargate SG-1	
627	528	50	SPC	MTV News		Cribs		The Hills		Super Sweet		True Life		
581	566	53	MTV	Beverly Hills, 90210		Make or Break		What Happen?		Family Guy		Seinfeld		
618	524	54	TROP	NCIS "Kill Ari"		Lost Worlds		Dossiers justice (HDTV)		Finding the Fallen		NCIS "Kill Ari"		
522	506	55	HIS	Biographies "Jack Black"		Wait for God		Keeping Up		House		Confidential		
129	773	60	CD	Murder, She Wrote		By the Rapids		renewadepress		Johnny Mnemonic * (1995, Science Fiction) Keanu Reeves.		Fish Out		
261	394	61	V	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)		etalk		Look-A-Like		etalk Profile		
602	567	62	W	The Main		Chef at Home		Restaurant Makeover		Unwrapped		Secret Life of		
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DANCE CANADA

SUNDAY 9



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Actor Dylan McDermott will soon be a single man once again. On Tuesday, a Los Angeles superior court judge ruled that the divorce between McDermott and his wife, Shiva Rose, will be finalized Jan. 2. THECELEBRITYCAFE.COM

McDermott's divorce nearly finalized

Celebrity Buzz

Kevin a happy dad

PARENTING Kevin Federline has been called many things in the nearly five years since Britney Spears walked into his life: Gold-digger, wannabe rapper, partier. These days he answers to one name: Daddy, People.com reports.

Since splitting with Spears in 2006, the former back-up dancer, 30, has channelled all of

his energy into their sons Preston, 3, and Jayden, 2.

"My first question to (my lawyer) was, 'Am I ever going to be able to see my children?'" Federline said, regarding working out a custody arrangement with Spears.

She was the one who called it quits on their marriage, he added.

"It's hard enough to be in a marriage, and then have a kid, then kids — it changes everything," Federline said. "For me, I'd become more concerned

with my children. Not that I ignored Britney, but my kids are always most important ... I mean, we were having complications. I didn't give her an ultimatum, but I was trying to work stuff out with her."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Miller's rep blasts press

RUMOUR Sienna Miller's representative has blasted the British press for alleging the actress had split from oil heir Balthazar Getty last month, insisting recent quotes attributed to the star are "three years old," imdb.com reports.

The actress has been romantically linked to Getty since the summer when they were seen in Prague in the Czech Republic, on the set of Miller's new movie G.I. Joe: Rise of Cobra.

Miller was rumoured to have broken off her romance with Getty. She was then alleged to have confirmed the split

and was quoted as saying, "I'm single at the moment, and I'm completely happy with that."

Miller and Getty later appeared to have rekindled their love affair, after they were spotted together in London last week.

But Miller's spokesperson claims the couple never parted ways in the first place, and is adamant the quotes have been rehashed from an old interview, because the actress hasn't commented on her private life in recent weeks.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Kate's strange love scene

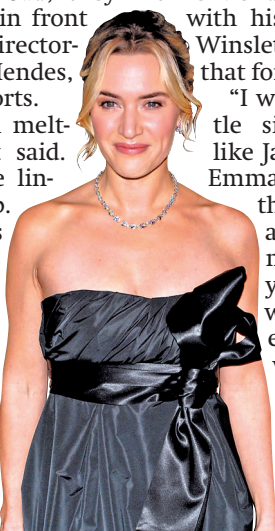
MOVIES Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio have done steamy onscreen sex scenes together before, but for their upcoming film Revolutionary Road, they had to pair up in front of Winslet's director-husband, Sam Mendes, People.com reports.

"I had a total meltdown," Winslet said. "Sam was there lining the scene up. I'd get things like, 'Press your hands into his back! No, his back! You just have to deal with it. Leo was remarkably fine with the whole thing.' Mendes

called the scene "a profoundly weird experience," but said Winslet was very professional. Revolutionary Road marks the first time Mendes has worked with his wife, despite Winslet's efforts to do that for years.

"I was getting a little sick of people like Jake Gyllenhaal, Emma Watson, all these wonderful actors say, 'Oh my God! Oh, you haven't worked together, have you?' I was starting to get a little bit jealous," Winslet said.

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Watts to pose in buff for art

PEOPLE Actress Naomi Watts is to strip for a nude painting by a prestigious Australian artist, imdb.com reports.

Watts has reportedly agreed to pose for David Bromley, who is famed for his naked portraits of famous

women, as part of his submission for Australia's prestigious Archibald Prize next year.

Bromley, who has also painted Kylie Minogue, is delighted the star has agreed to the project.

"My people are talking to her people," he says.

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HELLO!

Hot shot of the week



CAITLIN CRONENBERG/HELLO! CANADA

Recently honoured in Rome with a retrospective of his work, filmmaker David Cronenberg reflects on a trip to the Italian capital exclusively in HELLO! Canada. "It was a very sweet experience," writes the Toronto-born Eastern Promises director, who brought his family, including his photographer daughter Caitlin (who took the picture, above, at the Colosseum).

HELLO! CANADA magazine, now available on newsstands — read more at hellomagazine.ca

Spears gets proposals

PEOPLE Britney Spears has received two marriage proposals, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, who has wed twice before, is said to have been propositioned by her paparazzo ex-boyfriend Adnan Ghalib, who she met up with in September.

"Adnan has been bombarding Britney with texts telling her he loves her ... He has even asked her to marry him," a source said. "Britney was taken aback. She and Adnan have amazing chemistry. But she knows he is bad news, and now friends and family are worried she will give him a second chance."

However, Spears has also reportedly received a proposal from hair salon manager Salvatore D'Angelo, whom she was introduced to last month.

"Salvatore just came out with it and popped the question two weeks ago ... Britney was thrilled but told him she has to concentrate on work and being a good mother to her two sons. However, she said if he still feels the

same way at the end of next year, she will consider marrying him."

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GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

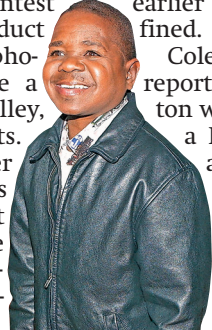
Coleman pleads no contest in court

LEGAL Actor Gary Coleman has pleaded no contest to disorderly conduct after attacking a photographer outside a Utah bowling alley, imdb.com reports.

The former Diff'rent Strokes star was in court on Tuesday to face charges stemming from the incident, which took place earlier this year. He was fined.

Coleman and his wife reportedly hit Colt Rush-ton with their vehicle in a Payson parking lot after he refused to stop taking cell-phone snapshots of the couple.

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Olsen 'not pregnant'

RUMOUR Despite a recent National Enquirer report, Mary-Kate Olsen is not expecting her first child, us-magazine.com reports.

"Mary-Kate is absolutely not pregnant," her rep said. According to the paper, rumours the 22-year-old was pregnant started when her weight shot up to 102 pounds.

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Chenoweth's book

BOOK Actress/singer Kristin Chenoweth is the latest celebrity to write about her own life in a forthcoming memoir, imdb.com reports. The Pushing Daisies star will discuss being adopted, her rise to fame, and her role in the hit Broadway show Wicked. The book is scheduled to hit shelves in April.

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